

# CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1994-1995

The main purpose of this chronology is to help the reader by reconstructing MSF's actions and public statements in regional and international news reports of the period. It is intended as a tool for this specific document, and not as an academic reference.

	International	The Great Lakes	MSF
<b>1994</b> <b>APRIL 1994</b>		<b>FROM 6 APRIL 1994</b> <u>Rwanda</u> : Genocide of <u>Rwandan Tutsi</u> and massacre of <u>Rwandan Hutu</u> opposed to the genocide by <u>Hutu extremists</u> .	
		<b>29 APRIL 1994</b> 170,000 <u>Rwandans</u> fleeing their country, arrive in <u>Tanzania</u> , and settle at the <u>Benaco</u> site.	
<b>JUNE 1994</b>		<b>9 JUNE 1994</b> <u>Tanzania</u> : Manhunt openly witnessed by MSF staff at the <u>Benaco</u> camp.	
		<b>15 JUNE 1994</b> <u>Tanzania</u> : Refugee protest to stop the expulsion of <u>Jean-Baptiste Gatete</u> , known as one of the organisers of the genocide. <u>UNHCR</u> staff taken hostage. International humanitarian staff leave the camp.	<b>17 JUNE 1994</b> <u>MSF France Press Conference</u> in Paris: “You can’t stop genocide with doctors.” The <u>Benaco</u> refugee camp described as a “humanitarian façade” and a “sanctuary for genocide.”
	<b>18 JUNE 1994</b> <u>France</u> announces it will go to the <u>United Nations Security Council</u> to call for “humanitarian military intervention in <u>Rwanda</u> , to be called ‘ <u>Opération Turquoise</u> ,’ with or without the support of other countries.”		
	<b>22 JUNE 1994</b> <u>Security Council Resolution 929</u> authorises “Operation <u>Turquoise</u> ” under <u>chapter 7</u> of the UN Charter: “protection of civilian populations and humanitarian aid.”		

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<p><b>1994</b> <b>JULY 1994</b></p>	<p><b>3 JULY 1994</b> UN authorises <u>France</u> to create “safe humanitarian zone” called the “<u>Zone Turquoise</u>” in the southwest of Rwanda (Cyangugu, Gikongoro, Kibuye).</p>	<p><b>4 JULY 1994</b> Rwanda: The <u>Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)</u> seizes control of <u>Kigali</u> and <u>Butare</u>. <u>Mass exodus</u> of Hutu to the northwest (Ruhengeri, Gysenyi) where an interim government is situated.</p> <p><b>6 JULY 1994</b> <u>Rwanda</u>: Government of national union created.</p> <p><b>13 JULY 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: Thousands of refugees arrive in <u>Goma</u>.</p> <p><b>14 JULY 1994</b> <u>Rwanda</u>: RPF seizes control of Ruhengeri. Rwandan intermediary government flees to <u>Zone Turquoise</u>.</p> <p><b>14 - 17 JULY 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: Between 500,000 and 800,000 Rwandans settle in and around Goma.</p>	<p><b>EARLY JULY 1994</b> Resignation of <u>Arjo Berkhout</u>, <u>MSF Holland</u>'s emergency pool coordinator in <u>Tanzania</u>.</p> <p><b>4-10 JULY 1994</b> Exploratory mission led by <u>MSF Belgium</u>, <u>MSF France</u>, and <u>MSF Holland</u> in the <u>Zone Turquoise</u>, surrounding Gikongoro: joint <u>MSF France/MSF Holland</u> programme planned; <u>MSF Holland</u> later withdraws.</p> <p><b>15 JULY 1994</b> <u>MSF Holland</u> and <u>MSF Belgium</u> agree on a joint intervention in <u>Goma</u>. <u>MSF France</u> chooses to remain on standby for <u>Bukavu</u>.</p>

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<b>1994</b> <b>JULY 1994</b>	<p><b>20 JULY 1994</b> The <u>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</u> announces the arrival of 500,000 refugees at border posts in <u>Bukavu</u> and <u>Kamanyola</u> (South Kivu). Airlift set up near Goma.</p> <p><b>22 JULY 1994</b> <u>US president Bill Clinton</u> declares it the “worst humanitarian crisis for a generation” and announces a “concrete plan of action.”</p>	<p><b>16 JULY 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: Withdrawal of <u>Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR)</u> to <u>Goma</u>.</p> <p><b>19 JULY 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: First cases of <u>cholera</u> reported in <u>Goma</u>.</p> <p><b>22 JULY 1994</b> <u>Rwanda</u>: the new government calls for the return of the refugees: “Those who didn’t take part in the massacres have nothing to fear.”</p> <p><b>24 JULY 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: 80,000 refugees arrive in Bukavu, instead of the 200,000 the UNHCR expected.</p> <p><b>27 JULY 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: 20,000 deaths from <u>cholera</u> in <u>Goma</u>.</p> <p><b>2 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: Refugees settle in camps 50 km north of <u>Goma</u>.</p>	<p><b>18 JULY 1994</b> <u>MSF Holland’s humanitarian affairs department</u> sends message to the teams: “We should continue our activities in the camp but at the same time we should continue to press publicly for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.”</p> <p><b>19 JULY 1994</b> <u>MSF Belgium Press Conference</u>: Call for the refugees to return to Rwanda. <u>MSF Holland</u> takes the same position.</p> <p><b>22 JULY 1994</b> <u>MSF Holland</u> announces 10,000 cases of cholera and 800 deaths in Goma. Medical needs are covered.</p> <p><b>24 JULY 1994</b> Part of the <u>MSF France</u> team based in <u>Bukavu</u> joins <u>MSF Belgium</u> and <u>MSF Holland</u> in Goma.</p>
<b>AUG. 1994</b>			

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<p><b>1994</b> <b>AUG. 1994</b></p>	<p><b>11 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>UN Security Council</u> in favour of a “rapid” return of refugees and displaced people to <u>Rwanda</u>. <u>UNHCR</u> cancels the mass return planned for 16 August.</p>	<p><b>13 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>Rwanda-Zaire</u>: Refugees flee Zone Turquoise towards <u>Bukavu</u>.</p> <p><b>15 - 23 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: 120,000 refugees in <u>Bukavu</u>.</p>	<p><b>4 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>MSF Press Conference in Goma</u>: <u>MSF France President of Board of Directors</u> states the refugees are too weak and that there are too many risks for them to return to Rwanda.</p> <p><b>7 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>MSF/Epicentre Press Conference in Goma</u>: 80,000 refugees are thought to have died between 24 July and 3 August.</p> <p><b>10 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>MSF Belgium Press Conference</u>: Review of the operations and finances; call for human rights monitoring in <u>Rwanda</u>. <u>International Council</u> decides to lobby for more human rights observers in Rwanda and sends MSF officers to gather information on human rights abuses in <u>Rwanda</u>, <u>Zaire</u>, and <u>Tanzania</u>.</p> <p><b>11 AUGUST 1994</b> Article by the <u>MSF Belgium President</u> in <u>Le Soir</u> newspaper: appeal to human rights organisations Article by <u>MSF International’s Secretary-General</u> in the <u>International Herald Tribune</u>: “Hurry to Prevent a Cambodian Epilogue in <u>Rwanda</u>.”</p> <p><b>13 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>MSF</u> evaluation mission in the region of <u>Cyangugu</u> (Southwest Rwanda).</p> <p><b>17 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>MSF Belgium and MSF France Press Release</u>: “<u>Rwanda</u>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Exodus Confirmed.”</p>

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<b>1994</b> <b>AUG. 1994</b>	<p><b>21 AUGUST 1994</b> The last <u>French</u> soldiers leave <u>Zone Turquoise</u>.</p>	<p><b>22 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>Tanzania</u>: Group of refugees attacked in <u>Benako</u> who were candidates to return to <u>Rwanda</u>.</p> <p><b>23 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: Militiamen attack 200 refugees from the <u>Kibumba</u> camp as they prepared to return.</p>	<p><b>19 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>MSF Belgium</u> and <u>MSF France</u> Press release: "French Troops Withdraw from Rwanda Leaving Chaos Behind Them."</p>
<b>SEPT. 1994</b>	<p><b>25 AUGUST 1994</b> <u>UNHCR</u> declares the camps in Zaire to be in a "virtual state of war" as a result of militia and <u>FAR</u> violence against the population and threats against NGOs. <u>UNHCR</u> no longer supports voluntary repatriation to <u>Rwanda</u> from <u>Goma</u>.</p> <p><b>6 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>RPF</u> begins deploying 2,000 combatants in the towns of <u>Gikongoro</u>, <u>Kibuye</u>, and <u>Cyangugu</u>.</p>	<p><b>2 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>Zaire</u>: Zairian authorities declare they no longer support the ex-Rwandan authorities, and that Rwandan refugees in Zaire have to leave by 30 September. Riots break out in several camps in Zaire.</p>	<p><b>EARLY SEPTEMBER 1994</b> Programme managers visiting the field confirm that <u>MSF France</u> wants to limit operations to emergency refugee care. <u>MSF France</u> and <u>UNHCR</u> sign a memorandum of understanding until 31 October.</p>

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<p><b>1994</b> <b>SEPT. 1994</b></p>	<p><b>7 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>Human Rights Watch</u> report on human rights abuses committed by <u>RPF</u> troops in June and July.</p> <p><b>16-17 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>UNAMIR</u> declares more than two million people are displaced within <u>Rwanda</u>.</p> <p><b>19 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>UNHCR</u> declares there are 2.1 million Rwandan refugees abroad: 270,000 in <u>Burundi</u>, 500,000 in <u>Tanzania</u>, 1.33 million in Zaire (850,000 in the region of Goma, 450,000 in the region of <u>Bukavu</u>, 30,000 in the region of <u>Uvira</u>).</p> <p><b>23 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>UNHCR</u> states it does not encourage Rwandan refugees to return home "based on the reports of violence there" (GerSONY report, unreleased). The <u>United Nations Secretary-General</u> calls for a further inquiry.</p> <p><b>24 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>UNAMIR</u> denies having information on the <u>RPF</u> massacres.</p> <p><b>27 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> The <u>United Nations Secretary-General</u> demands a halt on all communications on the risks faced by refugees returning to Rwanda.</p> <p><b>29 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>UNHCR</u> and the <u>United Nations</u> call for Zairian authorities to restore order in Rwandan refugee camps.</p>	<p><b>24 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> Operation "Homeward" to repatriate displaced people in <u>Gikongoro</u>, overseen by <u>UNAMIR</u>.</p>	<p><b>MID-SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>MSF France</u> starts running the Kamanyola camp (Zaire-Burundi border) but later evacuates for security reasons.</p> <p><b>23 AND 24 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> The MSF section coordinators meet in <u>Kigali</u> to analyse the situation in the camps and review MSF's position.</p> <p><b>LATE SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>MSF France</u> starts running the <u>Kabira</u> (Bukavu) camp. <u>MSF France</u> coordinator in Goma call to headquarters: the team is disgusted with the situation in the camps.</p>

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<b>1994</b> <b>SEPT. 1994</b>			<b>30 SEPTEMBER 1994</b> <u>Katale</u> (Goma) camp: Scouts assassinated by militiamen, threats against expatriate staff, and evacuation of aid organisations (including <u>MSF Holland</u> ) at the request of <u>UNHCR</u> . President of MSF France Board of Directors declares at Board meeting, “We are going to have to take a position on our presence in the Goma camps.”
<b>OCT. 1994</b>	<b>3 OCTOBER 1994</b> United Nations Security Council adopts the UN Experts Commission, which establishes that a genocide was committed against Rwandan Tutsi.	<b>6 OCTOBER 1994</b> <u>Rwanda</u> : Rwandan authorities seize total control of former safe humanitarian zone in <u>southwest Rwanda</u> .	<b>5 OCTOBER 1994</b> The MSF operations directors decide to send a three-person team, <i>'the Troika,'</i> to evaluate the situation in <u>Rwanda</u> , <u>Zaire</u> , and <u>Tanzania</u> .
			<b>7 - 16 OCTOBER 1994</b> <u>The Troika</u> from MSF's International Council visits the field teams in <u>Rwanda</u> , <u>Zaire</u> and <u>Tanzania</u> .
			<b>11 OCTOBER 1994</b> <u>MSF Holland's</u> humanitarian affairs department sends a memo to the teams: Arguments in favour of continuing operations; should MSF publish a report?
			<b>14 OCTOBER 1994</b> <u>The MSF Troika</u> and field coordinators meet and decide to reassess the situation in six weeks' time, after continued lobbying in the international community.



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<b>1994</b> <b>OCT. 1994</b>	<p><b>21 OCTOBER 1994</b>            In a press release, <u>UNHCR</u> speaks of its concerns regarding the deteriorating security conditions in refugee camps and denounces the FAR's threatening presence, the leaders grip on the population, and the terror inflicted upon refugees preparing to repatriate.</p> <p><b>24 OCTOBER 1994</b>            Three-way agreement signed by <u>UNHCR</u>, <u>Zaire</u>, and <u>Rwanda</u> on the repatriation of refugees.</p>		
<b>NOV. 1994</b>			<p><b>28 OCTOBER 1994</b>  <u>MSF France</u> Board votes for the withdrawal of the French section from all refugee camps in Rwanda, Zaire, and Tanzania, within one month.</p> <p><b>2 NOVEMBER 1994</b>            In a common <u>press release</u> in Goma <u>13 NGOs</u> (including <u>MSF Belgium</u>, <u>MSF France</u>, and <u>MSF Holland</u>) announce their support for <u>UNHCR</u>, and express their deep concern over deteriorating security conditions. They threaten to withdraw from the camps if security does not improve for expatriates and refugees.</p> <p><b>5 NOVEMBER 1994</b>  <u>MSF Belgium</u> volunteers in camps in Zaire write to the board about their disgust with the situation. They suggest the withdrawal of MSF from certain camps.</p> <p><b>6 NOVEMBER 1994</b>  <u>MSF Belgium's</u> coordinator in Goma writes to the Board of Directors opposing the withdrawal of MSF from the camps.</p>

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<p><b>1994</b> <b>NOV. 1994</b></p>	<p><b>8 NOVEMBER 1994</b> UN Security Council vote <a href="#">Resolution 955</a> on creating an <a href="#">international criminal tribunal for Rwanda</a> and a special force to re-establish security in the camps in Zaire and Tanzania, recommended by the <a href="#">UN Secretary-General</a>.</p>	<p><b>15 NOVEMBER 1994</b> 14 people killed by <a href="#">RPF</a> soldiers during refugee camp closure in the former safe humanitarian zone.</p>	<p><b>7 NOVEMBER 1994</b> In a <a href="#">press release</a>, <a href="#">MSF USA</a> "calls on the United Nations Security Council to take immediate action in the Rwandan refugee camps." The <a href="#">president of MSF France Board of Directors</a> announces the decision to withdraw from Rwandan refugee camps, in the daily newspaper <i>Ouest France</i>.</p> <p><b>8 NOVEMBER 1994</b> <a href="#">MSF Belgium Board of Directors</a> decides "to leave the door open on a possible withdrawal" of its own section from the Zaire camps. <a href="#">MSF France</a> ceases programmes in the <a href="#">Goma</a> region. <a href="#">Agence France-Presse</a> announces that MSF is willing to stay in the camps on certain conditions.</p> <p><b>10 NOVEMBER 1994</b> <a href="#">MSF Holland</a> publishes the report "<a href="#">Breaking the Cycle</a>" describing the situation in the camps in <a href="#">Zaire</a> and <a href="#">Tanzania</a>.</p> <p><b>14 NOVEMBER 1994</b> <a href="#">Press Release MSF international, MSF US, and MSF UK</a>: "MSF withdraws from camps in Bukavu, as a sign of protest."</p> <p><b>16 NOVEMBER 1994</b> In <i>Le Soir</i>, <a href="#">MSF Belgium's</a> operations director supports <a href="#">MSF France's</a> decision to leave the Bukavu camps.</p>

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<p><b>1994</b> <b>NOV. 1994</b></p>	<p><b>30 NOVEMBER 1994</b>  <u>UNHCR</u> announces a flood of several thousand refugees in the region of <u>Bukavu</u> and fleeing <u>RPF</u> soldiers emptying the camps in the former safe humanitarian zones in <u>Rwanda</u> (prefectures of <u>Kibuye</u> and <u>Cyangugu</u>).  The <u>UN Security Council</u> condemns the military and militia action in the <u>Zaire</u> refugee camps.  <u>UNAMIR</u> mandate is extended for 6 months and postpones indefinitely the Secretary-General's proposal to create an international force in the camps.</p>		<p><b>18 NOVEMBER 1994</b>  Effective withdrawal of <u>MSF France</u> from the <u>Bukavu</u> camps.</p> <p><b>24 NOVEMBER 1994</b>  MSF Inter-section meeting in <u>Amsterdam</u>: <u>MSF Belgium</u> and <u>MSF Holland</u> decide to stay in the camps. <u>MSF Holland</u> willing to take up <u>MSF France</u> programmes in Tanzania.  <u>MSF Belgium</u> Press Release: "Médecins Sans Frontières Questions Boutros Ghazi's Proposals." <u>MSF France</u>: "Médecins Sans Frontières Critiques Boutros Ghali's Proposals."</p> <p><b>25 NOVEMBER 1994</b>  <u>MSF Belgium</u> Press Release reports violent incidents in the <u>Goma</u> camps and calls for an international force to guarantee refugee safety.  <u>MSF International</u> and <u>Oxfam</u> Press Release: "Aid Agencies Criticise France for Blocking Aid from the European Union for Rwandan Reconstruction."</p> <p><b>LATE NOVEMBER 1994</b>  <u>MSF France</u> mounts an information campaign to explain its withdrawal from the <u>Zaire</u> and <u>Tanzania</u> camps to the press and donors.</p>

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<b>1994</b> <b>NOV. 1994</b>			<p><b>7 DECEMBER 1994</b>  <u>MSF Belgium</u> Board of Directors affirms that the section's strategy is to continue working in the camps, monitoring the situation and press for improvements.</p>
<b>DEC. 1994</b>		<p><b>17 DECEMBER 1994</b>  <u>Paul Kagame</u>, Rwandan Defence Minister, calls for peacekeepers to be sent to the Rwandan refugee camps in <u>Zaire</u>.</p>	<p><b>FIRST 2 WEEKS OF DECEMBER 1994</b>  <u>MSF France</u> prepares to leave camps in <u>Tanzania</u>. Sixteen cases of cholera in the <u>Benaco</u> camp.</p> <p><b>20 DECEMBER 1994</b>  <u>MSF Press Conference</u> in <u>Nairobi</u> announcing the withdrawal of <u>MSF France</u> from the camps in <u>Tanzania</u>.</p> <p><b>22 DECEMBER 1994</b>  On the BBC and in <i>The Guardian</i>, a <u>UNHCR</u> spokesman accuses <u>MSF</u> of leaving camps to spend the Christmas holidays at home.</p> <p><b>31 DECEMBER 1994</b>  Effective withdrawal of <u>MSF France</u> from the Rwandan refugee camps in <u>Tanzania</u>.</p>
<b>1995</b> <b>JAN. 1995</b>			<p><b>24 JANUARY 1995</b>  In conjunction with the publication of "Populations in <u>Danger</u>," <u>MSF</u> denounces the impunity enjoyed by those who committed genocide against the Rwandan Tutsi.</p>
<b>FEB. 1995</b>			<p><b>7 FEBRUARY 1995</b>  <u>MSF Belgium</u> announces its withdrawal from the camp in <u>Kibumba</u> for security reasons, threats to expatriates, and fraud during Rwandan refugee census. <u>MSF Holland</u> affirms general improvement in camps where their teams are working.</p>

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<b>1995</b> <b>FEB. 1995</b>			<p><b>9 FEBRUARY 1995</b> MSF International's Secretary-General publishes article in <i>The New York Times</i>: "Médecins Sans Frontières is Leaving Rwandan Refugee Camps."</p>
<b>MARCH 1995</b>			<p><b>3 - 4 MARCH 1995</b> MSF regional inter-section meeting in Kigali on the different positions held by MSF regarding refugee repatriation.</p> <p><b>23 MARCH 1995</b> Common Press Release by 18 NGOs, including MSF, announcing the urgent need for food in refugee camps in Zaire.</p>
<b>APRIL 1995</b>		<p><b>18 - 25 APRIL 1995</b> At least 4,000 displaced people massacred in Kibeho, southwest Rwanda by RPF soldiers.</p>	<p><b>LATE APRIL 1995</b> MSF Holland programme manager visits teams in Zaire camps opposed to the withdrawal.</p>
<b>MAY 1995</b>			<p><b>17 MAY 1995</b> At an International Great Lakes Programme Manager Meeting, MSF Belgium confirms it does not anticipate withdrawing from the camps in the near future.</p>
<b>JUNE 1995</b>			<p><b>22 JUNE 1995</b> The operations directors and the MSF Great Lakes programme managers discuss the possibility of leaving the camps. They conclude that each section should make its own decision. The MSF Belgium Board discusses a possible withdrawal from the camps.</p>
<b>JULY 1995</b>			<p><b>5 JULY 1995</b> MSF Belgium Board leaves the decision to withdraw from the camps to the Project Committee.</p>

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<b>1995</b> <b>JULY 1995</b>			<p><b>18 JULY 1995</b> The <u>MSF Belgium</u> Project Committee asks the Board for approval to leave the camp in Kahindo.</p>
			<p><b>27 JULY 1995</b> <u>MSF Holland</u> publishes the report "Deadlock in the Rwandan Refugee Crisis" on the situation in the Rwandan refugee camps in <u>Zaire</u> and <u>Tanzania</u>.</p>
<b>AUG. 1995</b>			<p><b>2 AUGUST 1995</b> <u>MSF Belgium</u> Board decides to withdraw the Belgian section from the camp in <u>Kahindo</u> in four months.</p>
			<p><b>9 AUGUST 1995</b> <u>MSF Holland</u> Board votes for the withdrawal of <u>MSF Holland</u> from the camps in <u>Tanzania</u> and <u>Zaire</u> (except for Uvira).</p>
			<p><b>28 AUGUST 1995</b> <u>MSF Holland's</u> departure announced after the news was leaked by a journalist in <u>Nairobi</u>.</p>
<b>DEC. 1995</b>			<p><b>DECEMBER 1995</b> <u>MSF Holland</u> withdraws from the <u>Katale</u> camp in <u>Zaire</u> and <u>Ngara</u> in <u>Tanzania</u>, and <u>MSF Belgium</u> withdraws from the <u>Kahindo</u> camp in <u>Zaire</u>.</p>